

Syllabus
8th Grade History
Good Shepherd Catholic School
2008-2009
Mrs. Karen Conley

Course Overview:

8th Grade History is a survey course beginning in 1607 with the early American Colonies. We then delve into the Revolutionary War which will be followed by the development of our system of government. As this is an election year, our Government Unit should prove to be quite exciting. We will then explore the American Westward Movement. During the Civil War Unit we will look at the various political, moral and economic questions and controversies which led to the secession of the South and the most devastating war our nation ever faced. After we learn about the Reconstruction Era, we will investigate the turn of the 20th Century and the myriad of changes and innovations it brought.

Our textbook for this school year is entitled, *The American Journey*. It is co-published by McGraw Hill and National Geographic and has been approved and recommended by the California Department of Education. I have been tremendously impressed by this textbook.

Research Papers:

There will be a total of four research papers assigned during the course of this school year. Each paper will be three to four pages in length, including the bibliography. The purpose of the research papers is to focus on both organizing information and writing in a clear, descriptive voice. The general subjects of the research papers will include: Colonial Life and Times, the Patriots, Civil War Battles, and Inventions & Innovations.

Study Skill Objectives:

One of the main objectives of 8th grade is to prepare the student for high school success; consequently, the classroom pace and the homework load will be more demanding. Students can regularly expect to have some homework on the weekends. The study skills that we will really hone in on will be research papers, test taking techniques and critical thinking.

East Coast Field Trip:

As you probably know, we will be returning to Colonial Virginia next spring. The best way to register for the trip is online. If anyone needs an extra registration packet, they are available upon request. An information meeting will be scheduled after Back to School Night to answer questions, clarify details, and explore fundraising possibilities.

History Homework & Grading Policies

Homework:

Students in grades 6 & 7 can expect to have homework assigned Monday through Thursday. Students in 8th grade will be assigned homework on Fridays as well. Most of the time, homework will consist of several pages of reading. The student will create a set of reading notes which will be due the following day. Homework is usually worth 10 points per assignment.

Class Work:

Approximately once a week during class, the students will be expected to write a one paragraph answer to a question pertaining to the homework reading. The Homework Questions (HQ) helps to both reinforce the reading and to practice writing skills. Each HQ is worth 10 points.

Due Dates & Make-Up Work:

All homework assignments are due on the due date. If a student is absent, the homework is due no later than three days after the student's return to school. It is the student's responsibility to get missing homework assignments. Assignments can be emailed upon request.

Papers and projects are due on the due date. If a student is absent the paper or project is due upon the student's return to school.

A 10% per day grade reduction will be assessed for each day the assigned homework or paper or project is late.

Tests and quizzes must be made up within ONE day of the student's return to school

Classroom Expectations:

Class will begin on time; therefore, all students must be on time and prepared for schoolwork. Each student must bring the following items to class each day: his or her history notebook, the history textbook, and a supply of pens & pencils & paper, along with whatever homework happens to be due.

I will make every effort to return all written work to the student the following school day with all necessary corrections and scores. I will also make myself available to both students and parents after school. I can be reached via email at kconley@gsschool.org.